

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A stretchable collagen material.
2. (Original) The stretchable collagen material according to claim 1, wherein the collagen is derived from fish.
3. (Currently Amended) The stretchable collagen material according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the collagen is cross-linked by using a cross-linking agent.
4. (Original) The stretchable collagen material according to claim 3, wherein the cross-linking agent is a water-soluble carbodiimide.
5. (Original) A method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material including a step in which gel comprising collagen fiber cross-linked by using a cross-linking agent is subjected to a thermal treatment.
6. (Original) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 5, including a step in which the gel is prepared by mixing of a collagen solution with a solvent which induces fiber formation and a solution of cross-linking agent.
7. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 5 [[or 6]], including a step in which the gel is prepared by cross-linking of fibers by a cross-linking agent during the fibril formation process of collagen.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, wherein fish-derived collagen is used.

9. (Original) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein the solvent inducing fiber formation is an aqueous solution of salt having a buffering ability selected from phosphate, acetate, carbonate and Tris.

10. (Original) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein a solution in which a water-soluble carbodiimide is dissolved in the solvent inducing fiber formation is used as the cross-linking agent.

11. (Original) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein the collagen concentration in the collagen solution is within a range of 0.01 to 3.0 (w/v) %.

12. (Original) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein the concentration of the cross-linking agent used is within a range of 15 mM to 80 mM as the final concentration in collagen gel before the thermal treatment.

13. (Original) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 7, wherein mixing of the collagen solution with the solvent inducing fiber formation and the cross-linking agent solution is conducted at a temperature not higher than the temperature of the denaturing temperature of collagen plus 5°C.

14. (Original) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 7, wherein the gel is prepared by mixing the collagen solution, the solvent inducing fiber formation and the cross-linking agent solution and then conducting incubation at

least for one hour at a temperature not higher than the temperature of the denaturing temperature of collagen plus 5°C.

15. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 14~~ claim 5, wherein the temperature for the thermal treatment is within a range of 30 to 200°C.

16. (Currently Amended) A stretchable collagen material which is manufactured by the method described in ~~any one of claims 5 to 15~~ claim 5.

17. (Currently Amended) The stretchable collagen material mentioned in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 and 16~~ claim 1, which is used as a cell carrier for giving elastic stimuli to incubated cells.

18. (Currently Amended) A cell carrier ~~or a medical material~~ comprising the stretchable collagen material mentioned in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 and 16~~ claim 1.

19. (Currently Amended) A basic material for artificial blood vessel comprising the stretchable collagen material mentioned in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 and 16~~ claim 1.

20. (Currently Amended) Collagen used for a subcutaneous implant in cosmetic surgery, comprising the stretchable collagen material described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 and 16~~ claim 1.

21. (Currently Amended) A basic material for artificial tendon, comprising the stretchable collagen material described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 and 16~~ claim 1.

22. (Currently Amended) An artificial dura matter, comprising the stretchable collagen material described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 and 16~~ claim 1.

23. (New) A medical material comprising the stretchable collagen material mentioned in claim 1.